

FAX TRANSMISSION**DATE:** April 15, 2005**PTO IDENTIFIER:** Application Number 09/973,878-Conf. #7078
Patent Number 6,878,424**Inventor:** Hiroto Sumida et al.**MESSAGE TO:** Certificate of Corrections Branch**FAX NUMBER:** (703) 308-6672**FROM:** CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
Morris Liss**PHONE:** (202) 331-7111**Attorney Dkt. #:** 20402-00635-US**PAGES (Including Cover Sheet):** 14**CONTENTS:**
Request for Certificate of Correction (No Fee) (2 pages)
Certificate of Correction (1 page)
Copy of Amendment filed April 1, 2004 (9 pages)
Certificate of Transmission (1 page)

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PTO/SB/97 (09-04)

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Application No. (if known): 09/973,878

Attorney Docket No.: 20402-00635-US

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Request for Certificate of Correction (No Fee) (2 pages)

Certificate of Correction (1 page)

Copy of Amendment filed April 1, 2004 (9 pages)

Docket No.: 20402-00635-US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Letters Patent of:
Hiroto Sumida et al.

Patent No.: 6,878,424

Issued: April 12, 2005

For: CONNECTING MEMBER FOR
CONNECTING CARRIER TAPES AND
CARRIER TAPE CONNECTING METHOD
USING THIS CONNECTING MEMBER

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.322**

MS Post Issue
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Upon reviewing the above-identified patent, Patentee noted typographical errors which should be corrected.

In the Claims:

In Claim 14, column 16, line 9, before "a" insert --and--;

In Claim 22, column 16, line 36, delete "use" and insert --used--.

The errors were not in the application as filed by applicant; accordingly no fee is required. Please see the Amendment filed April 1, 2004 (copy attached).

Transmitted herewith is a proposed Certificate of Correction effecting such amendment. Patentee respectfully solicits the granting of the requested Certificate of Correction.

Patent No.: 6,878,424

Docket No.: 20402-00635-US

Applicant believes no fee is due with this request. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20402-00635-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Morris Liss

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PTO/SB/44 (04-04)

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(Also Form PTO-1050)

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,878,424
DATED : April 12, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Hiroto Sumida et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In the Claims:

In Claim 14, column 16, line 9, before "a" insert --and--;

In Claim 22, column 16, line 36, delete "use" and insert --used--.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

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PATENT NO. 6,878,424

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Docket No.: 20402-00635-US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hiroto Sumida et al.

Confirmation: 7078

Application No.: 09/973,878

Art Unit: 1728

Filed: October 11, 2001

Examiner: J. A. Lorengo

For: CONNECTING MEMBER FOR
CONNECTING CARRIER TAPES AND
CARRIER TAPE CONNECTING METHOD
USING THIS CONNECTING ...

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated January 14, 2004, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes, comprising:
 - a base film;
 - a reference band substantially fixed on said base film; and
 - a bonding tape adhering on said base film,wherein a straight reference face is provided ~~on~~by said reference band ~~closely~~and confronting said bonding tape.
2. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film is configured into a rectangular shape, and said reference band is positioned in parallel with one side of said base film.
3. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein the color of said reference band is different from that of said base film.
4. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film is transparent.
5. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 4, wherein the color of said reference band is selected from the group consisting of black, red, blue, yellow, green, and white.

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6. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 35, wherein said reference band is thicker than said cover film.
7. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein a plurality of feed hole marks are provided between said reference band and said bonding tape on said base film, and said feed hole marks are arrayed at predetermined intervals so as to agree with feed holes of each carrier tape.
8. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein an edge mark is provided at a longitudinal center of said base film to indicate a portion corresponding to a cut face of each carrier tape.
9. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein a folding line is provided between two bonding tapes on said base film, and said folding line is parallel to said reference face of said reference band.
10. (Currently amended) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 9, wherein said base film is configured into a rectangular shape, and a distance from said folding line to said reference face of the reference band located near one side of said base film is longer than a distance from said folding line to an opposite side of said base film.

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11. (Currently amended) ~~The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 2~~ A connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes, comprising:
 a base film;
 a reference band substantially fixed on said base film;
 a bonding tape adhering on said base film;
 wherein a straight reference face is provided on said reference band closely to said bonding tape;
 wherein said base film is configured into a rectangular shape, and said reference band is positioned in parallel with one side of said base film; and,
 wherein a ~~predetermined~~ gap is provided between said reference band and one side of said base film.
12. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 35, wherein said cover film overhangs from a side of said base film far from said reference band.
13. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film and said bonding tape have the same size in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.
14. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film and said reference band have the same size in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.
15. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film has a size not shorter than 20 mm in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.

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16. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said bonding tape has a size not longer than 80 mm in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.
17. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein a plurality of carrying holes are provided on said carrier tape for accommodating parts, a top tape covers said carrying holes, and a transverse width of said bonding tape is narrower than that of said top tape.
18. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 17, wherein the transverse width of said bonding tape is not larger than 90% of the transverse width of said top tape.
19. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 17, wherein the color of said bonding tape is different from that of said carrier tape or said top tape.
20. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 19, wherein said bonding tape is semitransparent.
21. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 17, wherein said bonding tape is transparent.

Claims 22-34 (Cancelled)

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35. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
a cover film covering said bonding tape.

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REMARKS

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. Applicant notes the indicated allowability of claim 11, subject to being rewritten to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The foregoing amendment complies with the Examiner's requirements so that claim 11 is now in condition for formal allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 13, 14, 17 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,643,401 to Schulze-Kahlayss et al. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner likens the claimed reference band of the present invention to track 11 forming part of the flexible carrier or base film 10. Knobs 15 are providing on the track and it is these knobs that engage guide holes 5 of a component belt 1. The Examiner next likens the claimed bonding tape to components 12 and 16 adhering on the base film 10. However, as clearly indicated in col. 3, lines 7 and 8, reference numeral 12 simply denotes a second track that is parallel to the first track 11. Further, as referenced in col. 3, line 30, a further track 16 is provided, tracks 12 and 16 being separated by a free part of carrier 20. It is Applicants' understanding that the bonding tapes are referenced by 13 and 17 (see col. 3, lines 29-31).

Further, in his analysis of claim 1 and the applied reference, the Examiner considers a straight reference face to be the interior edge of section 11 as shown in Fig. 3. However, since channel 11 is only a portion of the base film 10, there is no raised portion of channel 11 that would form an edge or face, these terms normally requiring depth as opposed to a straight line.

Strips 13 and 17 correspond to the bonding tape of the presently claimed invention. However, claim 1 sets forth a straight reference face which is provided by a reference band positioned to confront the bonding tape.

In order to have a reference face with some depth, one would have to consider strip 13 as providing a reference face. However, that face would be facing what the Examiner considers to be a reference band 11 whereas the presently claimed reference face faces the bonding tape. The

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logical conclusion is that claim 1 defines the reference face as existing in a totally different place and in fact it faces a totally different direction from the claimed invention.

It should be evident that with the construction of claim 1 on the part of the Examiner, the straight reference face would not be available to serially connect two carrier tapes as defined in claim 1.

In fact, Fig. 7 of the reference makes it quit clear that knobs 15 provide the reference used to connect to carrier tapes. These knobs hardly meet the claimed requirement for a reference face. The knobs 15 of the reference may easily be dislocated from the guide holes they engage which would cause dislocation or inclination of connected carrier tapes.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that claim 1 defines a patentable distinguishable invention that is not anticipated by Schulze-Kahlayss et al.

In the rejection of claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 19, 20 and 21, the Examiner combines Schulze-Kahlayss et al. with JP 2000-124665 to Sumita et al. The secondary reference is relied upon for transparency and color variation as well as alignment marking. Regardless of the secondary features, the failure of the primary reference to meet the structure of claim 1 renders the dependent claims likewise allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20402-00635-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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